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Dr. Joshua Lederberg  
The Rockefeller University  
1230 York Avenue  
New York, NY 10021

Dear Josh:

Many thanks for "News and Notes" and also for your biography of Ed Tatum.

Norm Horowitz had previously sent me his biography of George Beadle. Both Ed and George came to rather tragic ends. As you and I grow older, we see more and more of this happening to our friends. George was an amazing man. He took up technical rock climbing, a young man's sport, when he was in his forties. As Norm notes, he died of Alzheimer's disease, but this did not affect him until quite late in his life. I knew him well, but I knew Ed Tatum only slightly. I was sorry to read that he died with emphysema.

I am glad that you are getting back into DNA work. The "accessibility of DNA for mutational or evolutionary change" may depend to some extent on directional mutation pressure. We are studying mutation rates as related to doublet frequencies. I was interested in Wally Gilbert's essay Nature page 10 January. We have been converted to computer searches of sequences for quite some time, rather than wet lab work.

Best wishes,

*Tom*

THOMAS H. JUKES

THJ/jp  
ENCL.